

Applicant: Norman W. Gavin

For: SEPTIC SYSTEM TANK

Attorney Docket No.: GNW382

Preliminary Amendment before first Office Action

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A molded in one piece plastic fluid distribution tank adapted for subterranean burial, having a top, a closed bottom and a plurality of vertical outer walls forming with the bottom, an open top fluid container, comprising:

a first vertical outer wall of said plurality of vertical outer walls having a top and a bottom and comprising a first planar outer surface,

a plurality of grooved annular circuits in said first planar outer surface of said first vertical outer wall, of equal diameter, extending in vertical overlapping sequence, the centers of the annular circuits being vertically spaced from one another, said first vertical outer wall being continuous across said grooved annular circuits so that liquid cannot pass through said first vertical outer wall at the grooves, said grooved annular circuits formed on the first wall so that a hole can be made through the first wall at any height of a plurality of heights between the top and the bottom of the first wall by removing the portion of the first wall that is circumscribed by the circuit at the desired height, a first groove of said grooved annular circuits having a top at said first planar

outer surface, and a first depth from said first planar outer surface to a first apex in said first vertical outer wall, a first side of said first groove of the plurality of grooved annular circuits forming a V in cross section with a second side of said first groove, said second side extending from said first planar outer surface to said first apex, said first side extending from said first planar outer surface to said first apex, sloping continuously toward said first apex, deviating at least once between said first planar outer surface and said first apex (248, 256) from being a straight line for guiding cutting in the groove past intersection of said first groove with a second groove of said plurality of grooved annular circuits.

Claim 8 (Original): The tank of claim 7 wherein said first side of said first groove comprises the outer diameter of the circuit for guiding cutting in the groove past intersection of said first groove with said second groove.

Claim 9 (Original): The tank of claim 7 wherein said first side and the second side of said first groove slope asymmetrically in cross section for guiding cutting in said first groove past intersection of said first groove with said second groove.

Claim 10 (Original): The tank of claim 7, further comprising:

a plate, molded in one piece with said tank, mounted on the bottom of said tank by a living hinge configured for vertical movement of said plate.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A plastic fluid distribution tank adapted for subterranean burial, having a top, a closed bottom, and a plurality of vertical outer walls forming with the bottom, an open top fluid container, comprising:

a first vertical outer wall of said plurality of vertical outer walls having a top and a bottom and

comprising a first planar outer surface,

a plurality of grooved circuits molded in one piece with said tank in said first planar outer surface of said first vertical outer wall, extending in vertical overlapping sequence, the centers of the circuits being vertically spaced from one another, said first vertical outer wall being continuous across said grooved annular circuits so that liquid cannot pass through the first wall at the grooves, said grooved annular circuits formed on the first wall so that a hole can be made through the first wall at any height of a plurality of heights between the top and the bottom of the first wall by removing the portion of the first wall that is circumscribed by the circuit at the desired height, a first groove of said grooved annular circuits having a top at said first planar outer surface, and a first depth from said first planar outer surface to a first apex in the first vertical wall, a first side of said first groove of the plurality of grooved annular circuits forming a V in cross section with a second side of said first groove, said second side extending from said first planar outer surface to said first apex, said first side extending from said first planar outer surface to said first apex, sloping continuously toward said first apex, deviating at least once between said first planar outer surface and said first apex (248, 256) from being a straight line.

Claims 13 and 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The tank of claim 12, further comprising:

a second groove of said plurality of grooved circuits, intersecting with said first groove,

opposite sides of said second groove of the plurality of grooved circuits extending each from said first planar outer surface in a second V in cross section a second depth from said first planar surface to a second apex in said first wall, sloping asymmetrically in cross section for guiding cutting in said first groove past intersection of said first groove with another groove of the plurality of grooved circuits.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The tank of claim 15 wherein the second depth is the same magnitude as the first depth.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A plastic fluid distribution tank adapted for subterranean burial, having a top, a closed bottom, and a plurality of vertical walls forming with the bottom, an open top fluid container, comprising:

a first vertical wall of said plurality of vertical walls having a top and a bottom and comprising a first planar surface,

a plurality of grooved circuits molded in one piece with said tank in said first planar surface of said first vertical wall, extending in vertical overlapping sequence, the centers of the circuits being vertically spaced from one another, said first vertical wall being continuous across said grooved annular circuits so that liquid cannot pass through said first wall at the grooves, said grooved annular circuits, formed on the wall so that a hole can be made through the wall at any height of a plurality of heights between the top and the bottom of the wall by removing the portion of the wall that is circumscribed by the circuit at the desired height, a first groove of said plurality of grooved annular circuits having a top at said first planar surface, and a first depth from said first planar surface to a first apex in said first wall, a first side of said first groove forming a V in cross section with a second side of said first groove, said second side extending from said first planar surface to said first apex, said first side extending from said first planar surface to said first apex asymmetrical in cross section with said second side.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The tank of claim 18, further comprising:

a second groove of said plurality of grooved circuits, intersecting with said first groove,

opposite sides of said second groove extending from said first planar surface in a second V in cross section a second depth each from said first planar surface to a second apex in said first wall, one of said opposite sides deviating from a straight line between said first planar surface and said second apex.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The tank of claim 19 wherein the second depth is the same magnitude as the first depth.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The tank of claim 7 further comprising:

opposite sides of said second groove of the plurality of grooved circuits extending from said first planar outer surface in a second V in cross section a second depth each from said first planar outer surface to a second apex in said first vertical outer wall, sloping asymmetrically in cross section, the second depth being the same magnitude as the first depth.

Claim 22 (New): An underground component for a septic system, comprising:

a sidewall having an interior surface and an exterior surface and terminating in an end portion, said end portion having an edge;

a rim extending from said exterior surface of said sidewall, said rim having an edge displaced radially outward and axially upward from said edge of said end portion and defining the axial extent of the component; and

a plurality of generally vertical members spaced about said interior surface of said sidewall attached to said interior surface up to said edge thereof.

Claim 23 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein at least one of

the plurality of generally vertical members terminates in an end flush with said edge of said end portion.

Claim 24 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein at least one of the plurality of generally vertical members defines an attachment hole.

Claim 25 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein at least one of the plurality of generally vertical members is a rib.

Claim 26 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein at least one of the plurality of generally vertical members comprises a boss.

Claim 27 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 26 wherein said boss is connected to said sidewall by an offsetting portion of said boss attached to said interior surface up to said edge thereof.

Claim 28 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein said sidewall is generally cylindrical.

Claim 29 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein said edge of said end portion is generally horizontal.

Claim 30 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 22, wherein said edge of said rim is generally horizontal.

Claim 31 (New): An underground component for a septic system, comprising:

a sidewall having an interior surface and an exterior surface and terminating in an end portion, said end portion having an edge;

a rim extending from said exterior surface of said sidewall, said rim having an edge displaced radially outward and axially upward from said edge of said end portion and defining the axial extent of the component; and

at least one attachment hole defining means for attaching an associated component, said attachment hole defining means attached to said interior surface of said sidewall to said edge thereof.

Claim 32 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 31, wherein said attachment hole defining means terminates in an end flush with said edge of said end portion.

Claim 33 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 31, wherein said sidewall is generally cylindrical.

Claim 34 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 31, wherein said edge of said end portion is generally horizontal.

Claim 35 (New): An underground component as claimed in claim 31, wherein said edge of said rim is generally horizontal.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three replacement sheets of drawings marked "6/3", "7/3", and "8/3" include changes to Figures 6, 7, and 8 respectively. The sheets replace sheets marked "6/3", "7/3", and "8/3" of Figures 6, 7, and 8 respectively.

The following drawing designators were added to the Figures. An informal list of their respective elements is included on this sheet.

130 interior surface

132 exterior surface

134 edge

136 edge

140 vertical element

142 flush with

144 vertical rib

146 offset portion

176 rim

182 sidewall

184 end portion

186 axial extent

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes